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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/583,661

06/21/2006

Yoshiyuki Hashimoto

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850

EXAMINER

ARTHUR JEANGLAUDE, GERTRUDE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3661

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/15/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/583,661	Applicant(s) HASHIMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner GERTRUDE ARTHUR JEANGLAUD	Art Unit 3661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/5/08; 8/31/07; 6/21/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Breed (U.S. Patent No. 6,738,697).

Regarding claims 1, 10, Breed discloses an integrated control system for vehicle control, comprising at least three subsystems (steering system, brake pressure sensor system, transmission fluid level sensor system) operating autonomously and in parallel, dispensable of a hierarchical system for a level higher than said subsystem, wherein said subsystem comprises a sensing unit for sensing information related to an operation request with respect to at least one of said subsystems (steering subsystem has a sensor; see col. 39, lines 1-21)), a connection unit (See col. 40, lines 39-59; where it discloses a communication link considered as a connection unit) for connection with another subsystem other than its own subsystem, and a generation unit (processor coupled to the sensors subsystem; see abstract) for generating information related to an individual control target of its own subsystem based on said sensed information related to an operation request.

Regarding claims 2, 11, Breed discloses the generation unit (processor; see abstract) includes an arbitration unit for arbitrating a plurality of information to generate information related to an individual control target of its own subsystem, based on said sensed information related to an operation request (See col. 27, line 66-col.28 line 19).

Regarding claims 3, 12, Breed disclose at least three subsystems operating autonomously and in parallel, (See col. 39, lines 1-21; col. 10, lines 50-57) dispensable of a hierarchical system for a level higher than said subsystem, wherein said subsystem comprises a sensing unit for sensing information related to an operation request with respect to at least one of said subsystems (steering subsystem has a sensor; see col. 39, lines 1-21), a connection unit for connection with another system other than its own subsystem(See col. 40, lines 39-59; where it discloses a communication link considered as a connection unit), and an arbitration unit for arbitrating a plurality of information to generate information related to an individual control target of its own subsystem (see “processor” coupled to the sensors subsystem; see abstract; the processor is also considered as an arbitration unit for generating information), based on said sensed information related to an operation request, said arbitration unit in said subsystem being connected between each of said subsystem, and when arbitration information arbitrated at each said subsystem is transmitted to the arbitration unit of another subsystem, control is executed at said another subsystem based on said transmitted arbitration information (also see col. 27, line 66-col. 28, line 19).

Regarding claims 4-6, 13-15, Breed discloses the arbitration unit determines priority of information (the processor as discussed wherein the processor is considered

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as an arbitration unit and capable of determining priority; correcting information; processing information (see col. 27, lines 67-col. 28, line 19).

Regarding claims 7, 16, Breed discloses that the vehicle integrated control system having subsystem comprises a driving system control subsystem, a brake system control subsystem, and a steering system control subsystem (See col. 38, line 66-col. 39 line 22).

Regarding claims 8, 17, Breed discloses the subsystem further comprises an automatic cruise subsystem (See col. 46, lines 24-37) controlling said vehicle for automatic cruising or pseudo automatic cruising of said vehicle.

Regarding claims 9, 18, Breed discloses subsystem further comprises a dynamic stabilization subsystem controlling said vehicle so as to stabilize a behavior state of said vehicle (See col. 10, lines 29-41).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GERTRUDE ARTHUR JEANGLAUD whose telephone number is (571)272-6954. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (571) 272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gertrude Arthur-Jeanglaude/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3661